



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging



NOMINATION FORM

The **Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame**, exclusively for adults age 65 and older, is open to those who excel in one of four categories.

Eligibility is based on the nominee's past and present accomplishments. The candidate must be a current Illinois resident or a former resident who lived in Illinois the majority of his or her life. Posthumous nominees will also be considered.

Illinois Department on Aging staff will thoroughly review all applications and ultimately submit no more than 44 finalists in each category to the judges. The Judges will select one individual in each of the four categories for induction into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

Category (check one):

Community Service Education Performance and/or Graphic Arts Labor Force

Name of Nominee: Herbert A. Wyeth III

Address: 972 Edgewater Dr, Morris, IL 60450

Phone: (815) 405-9640

Age: 69

Nominations must be postmarked or faxed by June 1, 2023, to be considered.

Please review the entire application before completing the criteria.

The nominee must be age **65 or older** (posthumous nominees will also be considered) to be eligible for the Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame. If more space is needed, please attach a Word document or text document clearly marking the continuation. The nominator may also attach digital newspaper articles, digital photographs or letters of recommendation when submitting this form to support the nomination (no more than eight total attachments, please). **At least one photograph of the nominee must accompany the application. Nominators are expected to be the sponsor of the Senior Awardee and are to assist the Illinois Department on Aging with the Award Ceremony.** If you have questions, please call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at **1-800-252-8966; 711 (TRS)**. Email this form and all attachments to: Purnell.BordersIII@illinois.gov

1. Thoroughly describe contributions the nominee has made in the specified category.

As the founder of Morris Cruise Night, Herbert Wyeth has created a legacy of community involvement in Grundy County. Morris Cruise Night has existed for 21 years, bringing together families and persons of all ages. In its 21 years of existence, it has brought together 4,000-6,000 people and an average of 800 cars per night. Herbert Wyeth has assured all that Cruise Nights' success would not have been possible without its amazing members and volunteers. All efforts stand out as it promotes togetherness and community service in Grundy County. Herbert Wyeth is a leader that nurtures his team and keeps them together to continue efforts of community service. He has approximately 25 people commit to community service hours. He promotes and continually requests folks to volunteer and has done so for 21 years.

2. Describe any voluntary contributions to society; at senior centers, retirement facilities, hospitals, schools, churches; working with specific organizations or clubs; or through independent charitable activities.

Herbert Wyeth contributes many hours all year long, planning, organizing, and facilitating the day of the Morris Cruise Nights. In addition, Morris Cruise Night has now developed into "Morris Cruise Night Season," hosting 5 events during each season, partnering with specific charitable organizations to give back to by donating proceeds raised. In 2022, Morris Cruise Night hosted their first Christmas Cruise & Toy Drive. Every toy or monetary donation went back to a local non-profit. Agencies that they have partnered with are as follows: Morris Police Benevolent Society, Grundy County Heroes and Helpers, Morris Shrine Club, Pink Heals Joliet Area Chapter, and Special Connections of Grundy County.

3. List programs or activities the nominee has implemented to improve the quality of life for others.

The Cruise Night team gives back as much as possible to the community by donating to local charities. At each event, they select one charitable organization and allows them to sell 50/50 raffle tickets and have a food booth. In 2021, the 50/50 winner won over \$4,000. All proceeds from the \$10 vehicle registration fee, are split between the winning car and charitable organizations. An allotment of the funds goes to Wyeth's Alma Mater, Grundy Area Vocational Center, to benefit students who desire to build a career working with their hands. A portion is also donated to the Golden Wrench Scholarship, which Morris Cruise Night provides to students interested in automotive technology. Herbert Wyeth has established two (2) one thousand dollar scholarships to show his concern and to help students seeking to obtain a degree in automotive technology. The scholarships are intended to help a deserving high school graduate pursue their goal in life. The scholarship money is for post-high school education, for an Automotive student who is majoring in automotive technology, as long as it is provided by an accredited school. The scholarship would not be possible without the efforts of the community.

4. List previous public recognition honors earned by the nominee.

Herbert Wyeth received the honorable seat as Morris' First Ward Alderman and has maintained this position since 2016. He also serves on the Council Standing Committee as the Airport Chairman. He was a past Worthy President of Fraternal Order of Eagles. Herbert has served on the Advisory Board for World of Wheels Chicago since 2006 and also serves on the advisory board of Automotive Training GAVC. Herbert is a member of the Finance and Administration Committee as well as the Vice Chairman of the Park and Annexation Committee. Herbert has received recognition by Operation: MOMS Cookies Inc for his patriotism, outreach and support of the military community MOMS serves, the men and women of the US Armed Forces. He has also received the 45th Annual CARQUEST World Of Wheels Appreciation Award. Moreover, he earned the Director's Special Award, in recognition of his assistance on Dec 11, 1988 which helped save the life of IL State Trooper Edward C. Ruettiger. In addition, Herbert was presented the Citizen of the Year award by the Morris Lions Club in 2016.

5. Other comments.

Awards and recognitions aside, Herbert is a man of his word and one who seeks to continually serve his community and all people. He has a passion for cars which led to the creation of a hallmark event for Grundy County that will continue to promote needed community service efforts for years to come while bringing families and communities together. A true legacy for Grundy County.

Nominator's Name:

Street Address: 1320 Union St

City, State, Zip Morris, IL 60450

Phone:

Email to: seniors@grundyhealth.com

Fax to: 815-941-6820

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice); 711 (TRS).